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Media backgrounder: TEC monitoring

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is mandated under the Education Act 1989 to:

- Invest government funding through Investment Plans and contracts with tertiary education organisations
- Provide information and advice to the government about tertiary education organisations and the tertiary education sector
- Monitor and manage the performance of tertiary education organisations.

Monitoring can include some or all of the steps below:

Audits

Audits are carried out to ensure compliance with conditions of funding. Audits place emphasis on procedures, processes, accuracy of records and how a TEO's statutory obligations and conditions of funding are managed within the organisation.

Reviews

Reviews are generally carried out as a result of the TEC receiving information about or becoming aware of matters relating to the activities of a TEO that require further examination.

Investigations

Investigations examine the activities of a TEO in more depth than an audit or a review. Investigations are more likely to be initiated in relation to specific actions, activities or questions of conduct identified as a result of an audit or a review.

The TEC receives a range of information that informs its monitoring and risk management decisions and procedures:

- From a complaint received by the TEC, NZQA or Studylink
- as a result of the TEC's, NZQA's or Studylink's monitoring work, or
- from the TEC's pattern recognition processes.

If the information raises concerns, but provides little or no evidence of non-compliance with the TEC's funding conditions, the TEC will place the relevant TEO on the annual audit schedule or commence a review.

If the information raises serious concerns the TEC would proceed straight to an investigation.